

Readings:

- Chapter 19
- Brinton, Crane. *The Anatomy of Revolution*
- Voltaire's Vision of Universal Tolerance
- Robespierre and Saint-Just Defend the Arrest of Danton
- A View of Napoleon's Character

Give two reasons why the French Revolution is considered a turning point in European history.

Crane Brinton's classic *The Anatomy of a Revolution* theorizes that political revolutions often go through five distinct phases. We will use his model to follow the twists and turns of the French Revolution and other world revolutions.

## I. Phase One: Old Regime (Problem) Phase

- A. Social Inequality (Social Problems) (Note: France had a population of 27 million at this time.)

First Estate	Second Estate	Third Estate
Members:		

- B. Economic Problems: What were two "money" problems that made life in France in the 1780s difficult?
- C. Political Problems: How did each of the following contribute to government instability during the 1780s?
- (1) Government Spending
  - (2) Estates General
- D. Intellectual criticism (Enlightenment):

## **II. Phase Two: Transfer of power Phase (1789 – 1791)**

- A. National Assembly: What is it? Why is it created? When does it first meet?
- B. July 14, 1789: Why is this date significant in French history?
- C. Great Fear (Summer 1789): Why are there revolts in French cities and in the countryside?
- D. What reforms does the National Assembly enact in the following areas?
  - 1) Aristocratic privileges
  - 2) Rights of Man and the Citizen (1789)
  - 3) King Louis XVI
  - 4) Roman Catholic Church
  - 5) Constitution of 1791 (Legislative Assembly)

## **III. Phase Three: Struggle Between Moderates and Radicals (1791 – 1793)**

- A. Which groups oppose the aforementioned changes made by the National Assembly?
- B. Why does the new legislative Assembly declare war on Austria and Prussia in the spring of 1792?
- C. Why do radical mobs in August of 1792 take the King Louis XVI captive? What do they force the Legislative Assembly to do?
- D. More Radical Changes
  - 1) What does the newly elected National Convention (September 1792) do on January 21, 1793? Does anyone oppose such action?

2) Who is Georges Danton? What does he want for France?

3) Why is France preparing for war again in the spring of 1793?

#### **IV. Phase Four: Reign of terror and Virtue (The Radical Revolution) (1793-1794)**

A. What was the Committee of Public Safety? Who is its leader? Why was it created?

1) How does this Committee deal with France's foreign crisis? Give two examples.

2) How does the Committee deal with France's internal crisis (internal enemies)?  
Give two examples.

#### **V. Phase Five: Reaction (against the Reign of Terror) (1794 – 1799)**

A. After France's foreign enemies have been defeated, how does the reign of Terror end at home?

B. What changes does the National Convention make? Give two examples?

C. Directory: (1795 – 1799)

- 1) How is this new executive (president) different from that of the National Convention?
- 2) Who were the royalists? What did they hope to do?
- 3) Who led the 1799 “coup d’etat” which brought an end to the Directory (and the National Convention)?

## **Unit Summary**

- A. What was the “Old Order” in Europe?
- B. What were two factors, which undermined this Old Order?
- C. Upon what ideas were the revolutions in North America and France based?